



THE JOINT STAFF

TOP SECRET

Approved For Release 2003/09/30 : CIA-RDP79B01709A000100060004-2

HANDLE VIA

TAGBOARD

THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

5 March 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HOLDERS OF THE SPECIAL OVERFLIGHT SUPPLEMENT

Subject: TAGBOARD Mission D-550 Resume

1. (TS/) The D-21 (TAGBOARD) drone reconnaissance mission scheduled for the month of March 1971 was executed on 5 March. The drone launched from the B-52 mothership on schedule at 05/0356Z and flew the preset route (attached) over South China exactly as programmed. Recovery package ejection occurred on time at 05/0530Z and was sighted by the JC-130 recovery aircraft at 05/0531Z. Because of probable air pickup chute failure; aerial recovery was not possible and the package impacted in the water 10 nm northwest of the predicted impact point at 05/0558Z. This malfunction differed from the failure on the previous mission in that the package apparently experienced a retarded if not soft landing, transmitted required telemetry signals, and floated for approximately one hour. The destroyer, USS McMorris, the back-up recovery ship, steamed to the splash down point and had visual sighting at 05/0700Z. Telemetry was lost at 05/0655Z and the destroyer reported loss of visual contact and unsuccessful boarding attempt at 05/0714Z due to extremely rough seas. The recovery destroyer remains in the impact area; however, the recovery package is assumed sunk in approximately 2100 fathoms of water.



25X1

25X1
NROAttachment
a/s

C. DONALDSON JR.
Rear Admiral, USN
Deputy Director for Operations
(Recon & EW)

NRO, JCS reviews completed

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MEMORANDUM FOR

*For your information.
I understand there are
17 left in the inventory.*

*I note we try
another one! R.S.*

(DATE)

FORM NO. 101 REPLACES FORM 10-101
1 AUG 54 WHICH MAY BE USED. (47)

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